level for carrying out holistic studies on Himalayan glaciology and monitoring all the important glaciers to deal with snow melting;

(b) by when the decision for setting up the centre would be considered;

(c) whether the Geological Survey of India has been conducting studies on the recession of the Gangotri glacier since 1935 and Ganga basin, glacier melts have been reported and scientists found that the rate of shrinking of 30.2 km-long Gangotri glacier during the last three decades is more than the earlier decades; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Department of Science and Technology has been assigned the responsibility of establishing a National Institute for Research and Development of Himalayan Glaciers. The Department of Science and Technology has initiated the consultative process for preparing a detailed Project Report for establishing an Institute for "Snow, Ice and Glaciers Studies". The Geological Survey of India has been carrying out studies on the recession of Gangotri Glacier since 1935. Between 1935 and 1996 the average recession rate of Gangotri Glacier was 18.80 m/year but during 1976—96 an increased recession rate of 28.25 had been observed. Further, studies carried out by Jawaharlal Nehru University and G.B. Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment and Development had recorded the recession rates of Gangotri Glacier as 17.15 m/year between 1971 and 2004 and 12.10 m during 2004-05.

Structural Engineering Research Centre in Chennai

1444. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether CSIR has a dedicated institute called the Structural Engineering Research Centre (SERC) in Chennai;

(b) if so, the role of SERC;

(c) the number of such autonomous bodies under the CSIR today;

(d) whether any study has been done to merge or reduce the bodies which have become redundant; and

(e) the steps proposed to study the role of such bodies, their budgets and utilities?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The role of Structural Engineering Research Centre (SERC) is to:

* undertake application oriented research in all aspects of structural engineering, including rehabilitation of structures;
* develop know-how on design and construction of all type of structures;
* provide necessary support services in the area of structural engineering to organizations in public and private; and
* organize specialized courses on structural engineering for the benefit of practicing engineers to familiarize them with the latest developments.

(c) There are no autonomous bodies under CSIR. Like SERC, CSIR has 36 more research laboratories Institutes.

(d) and (e) CSIR has mechanism to continuously monitor performance of its Laboratories/ Institutes. The functioning of each laboratory is reviewed periodically by the respective Research Council (RC) for their performance wherein all resources including budget are considered. Further, a Performance Appraisal Board (PAB) is constituted by CSIR to review the performance of each Laboratory/Institute every 5 years. Expert groups such as RCs and PAB by recommend merger of Laboratories/Institutes in order to maximize the synergies among them.

Grant-in-aid for schools for Scheduled Caste children

1445. SHRI GANDHI AZAD: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the essential requirements to get grant-in-aid to start new project of residential/non-residential schools for Scheduled Caste children;

(b) whether NGO/Trust for such schools should be more than two years old;

(c) the details of new projects received from 31st March to 30th June, 2007 from UP/ Delhi/Haryana Governments for residential schools;

(d) whether all the concerned NGOs were asked to complete the deficiencies/requirements before rejecting/sending back the project to the State Governments, out of the projects received; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (e) The proposals of the organizations, which are registered and actively working for 2 years in their sectors and recommended by Grants-in-aid Committee constituted by the respective State Governments, are considered for release of grants by the Government. No such proposal was received from the Grant-in-aid Committee of these States during this period.

Selection of NGOs for grants

1446. KUMARI NIRMALA DESHPANDE: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether selection of NGOs, for receiving grant, is done by the Central Government or the State Governments; and

(b) what is the ratio of selection by the two?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) and (b) The grant in aid to the NGOs were being released on the basis of recommendations/Inspection Reports of the State Governments/UT Administrations. From the current financial year, central assistance will be released to the NGOs after the receipt of the consolidated recommendations (both for ongoing and new cases) from Multi Disciplinary Grant in aid Committees of the States/UTs.